IN THE SPECIFICATON

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 16-21, as follows:

In an autofocus apparatus according to this invention, a flash is performed in synchronism with a sampling timing of an AF evaluated value. ~~Further, the light quantity of each flash is maintained substantially constant.~~ Therefore, high-speed and high-precision focusing can be performed even when the object has low brightness, low reflection factor, and low contrast.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 21 to page 19, line 7, as follows:

Then, the CPU 121 makes the flash tube Xe of the electronic flash device 127 flash in synchronism with the timing shown in Fig. 11D, namely with the sampling timing of an AF evaluated value during integration of CCD before the image is fetched. In this process, the CPU 121 controls a light quantity of the flash by the flash tube Xe according to a charged voltage in the main capacitor MC of the electronic flash device 127 (Refer to Fig. 2) as well as to an ON time of the IGBT (flashing time) as described above~~, and controls such that the quantity of light of each flash is constant as far as possible~~. Then, the CPU 121 determines a focus position according to the sampled AF evaluated value and drives the lens system 101 to the focus position.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, lines 3-17, as follows:

The CPU 121 drives the lens system 101 from a minimum distance (which may be a shortest distance for photographing with a flash-light adjusted) up to the above-mentioned reachable maximum distance to sample an AF evaluated value and also makes the flash tube Xe of the electronic flash device 127 flash in synchronism with a sampling timing of an AF evaluated value. In that process, the CPU 121 controls, same as to the operation example 1, a quantity of light of the flash by the flash tube Xe according to a charged voltage in the main capacitor MC of the electronic flash device 127 (Refer to Fig. 2) as well as to an ON time of the IGBT (flashing time)~~, and controls in such a way that the quantity of light of each flash is maintained constant as far as possible~~. Then, the CPU 121 determines a focus position according to the sampled AF evaluated value and drives the lens system 101 to the focus position.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 9-19, as follows:

At first, the CPU 121 performs sampling of an AF evaluated value while driving the lens system 101, and makes the flash tube Xe of the electronic flash device 127 flash in synchronism with the sampling timing of an AF evaluated value during integration of the CCD before an image is fetched (1/60 Hz). In that process, the CPU 121 controls the quantity of light of the flash from the flash tube Xe according to a charged voltage in the main capacitor MC of the electronic flash device 127 (Refer to Fig. 2) as well as to an ON time of the IGBT (flashing time)~~, and controls in such a way that the quantity of light of each flash is maintained constant as far as possible~~.

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, line20 to page 23, line 5, as follows:

Operation example 4 is explained here with reference to Fig. 13. Fig. 13 is a timing chart for explaining the operation example 4, which shows a flashing timing. The operation example 4 shows a case where there are steps of acquiring an AE evaluated value by pre-flashing, calculating a light quantity of a flash and a gain set value of the AGC amplifier 105 according to the AE evaluated value, setting the calculated light quantity and gain set value of the AGC amplifier 105, and performing a flash in synchronism with the sampling timing of an AF evaluated value. ~~In this case, a control is provided in such a way that the quantity of light for each flash is maintained constant.~~

Please amend the paragraph at page 23, lines 13-18, as follows:

Then, the CPU 121 calculates a strobe-light quantity at the time of sampling an AF evaluated value as well as a gain value of the AGC amplifier 105 according to the acquired AE evaluated value, and sets the gain value of the AGC amplifier 105. ~~The quantity of light for each flash for sampling an AF evaluated value is maintained to be constant.~~